

## 2012 - JCR Evaluation Form

SPECIES: Mountain Goat

PERIOD: 6/1/2012 - 5/31/2013

HERD: MG201 - BEARTOOTH

HUNT AREAS: 1, 3, 514

PREPARED BY: DOUG  
MCWHIRTER

	<u>2007 - 2011 Average</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013 Proposed</u>
Population:	200	225	225
Harvest:	14	14	20
Hunters:	16	15	20
Hunter Success:	88%	93%	100 %
Active Licenses:	16	15	20
Active License Percent:	88%	93%	100 %
Recreation Days:	83	73	110
Days Per Animal:	5.9	5.2	5.5
Males per 100 Females	1	0	
Juveniles per 100 Females	31	0	

Population Objective:	200
Management Strategy:	Special
Percent population is above (+) or below (-) objective:	12%
Number of years population has been + or - objective in recent trend:	5
Model Date:	1/1/1872

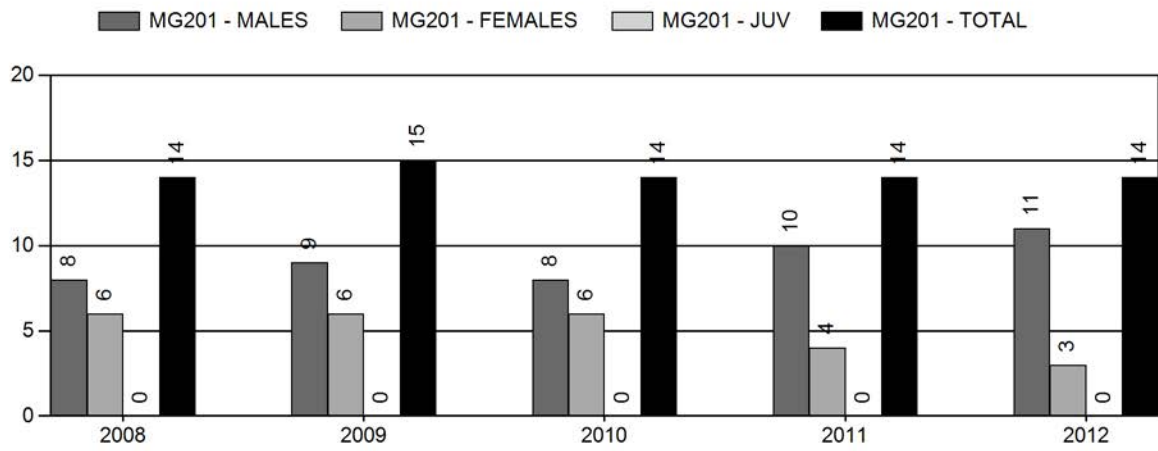
**Proposed harvest rates (percent of pre-season estimate for each sex/age group):**

	<u>JCR Year</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Females $\geq$ 1 year old:	N/A%	N/A%
Males $\geq$ 1 year old:	N/A%	N/A%
Juveniles (< 1 year old):	N/A%	N/A%
Total:	N/A%	N/A%
Proposed change in post-season population:	N/A%	N/A%

## Population Size - Postseason



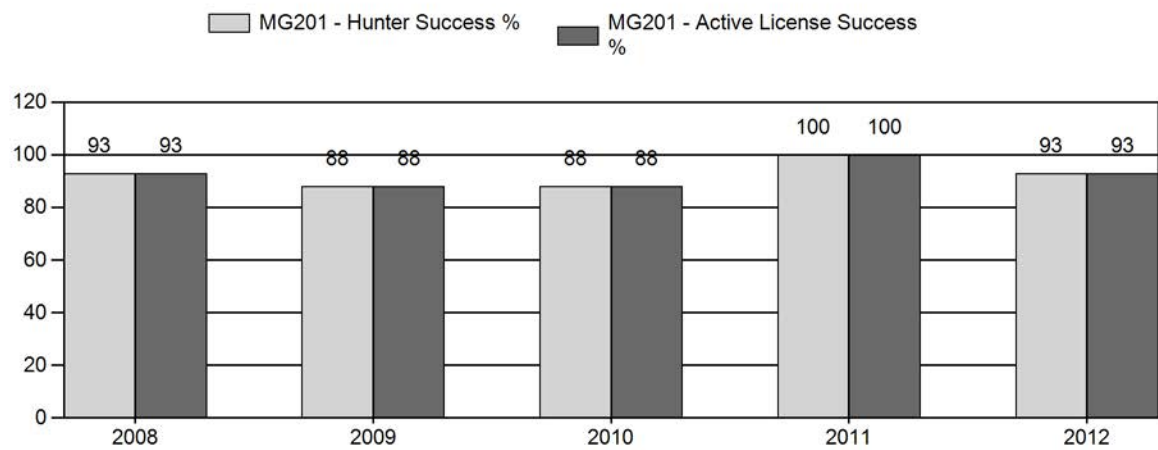
## Harvest



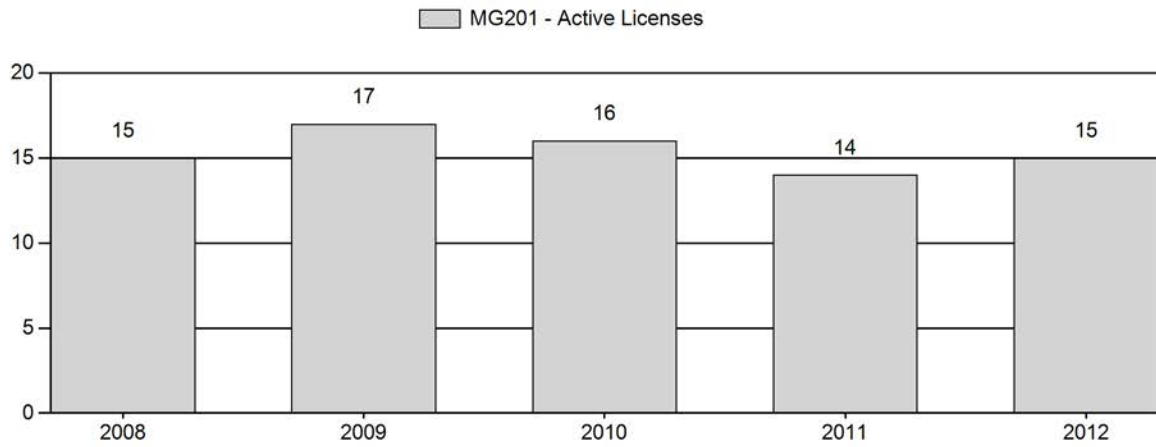
## Number of Hunters



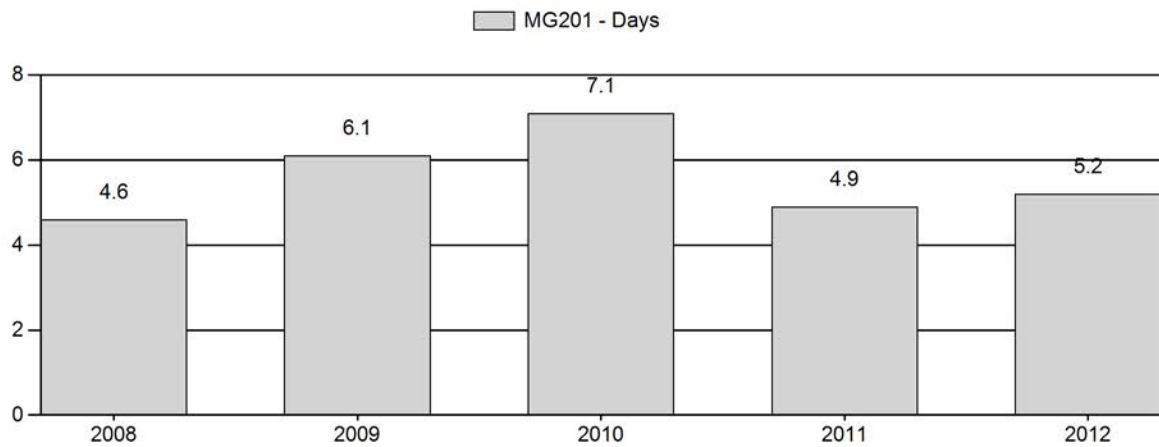
## Harvest Success



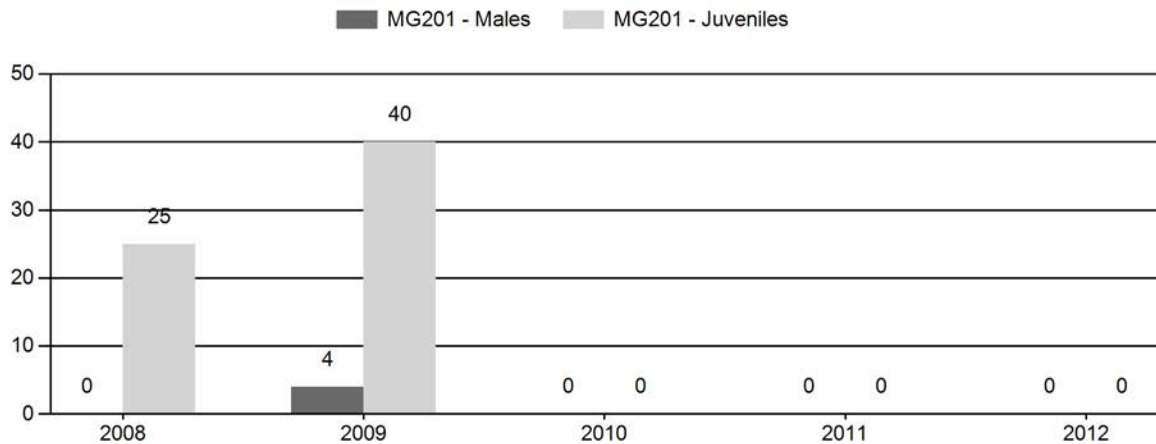
## Active Licenses



## Days Per Animal Harvested



## Preseason Animals per 100 Females



# 2008 - 2012 Preseason Classification Summary

## for Mountain Goat Herd MG201 - BEARTOOTH

		MALES				FEMALES		JUVENILES				Males to 100 Females				Young to		
Year	Pre Pop									Tot CIs	Cls Obj	Conf				100 Fem	Conf Int	100 Adult
		Ylg	Adult	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%			YIng	Adult	Total	Int			
2008	225	0	0	0	0%	141	80%	35	20%	176	131	0	0	0	± 0	25	± 0	25
2009	225	3	0	3	3%	83	70%	33	28%	119	159	4	0	4	± 0	40	± 0	38
2010	225	0	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	± 0	0	± 0	0
2011	225	0	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	± 0	0	± 0	0
2012	250	0	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	± 0	0	± 0	0

**2013 HUNTING SEASONS  
BEARTOOTH MOUNTAIN GOAT HERD (MG201)**

Hunt Area	Type	Dates of Seasons		Quota	Limitations
		Opens	Closes		
1	1	Sept. 1	Oct. 31	14	Limited quota; any goat (10 residents, 4 nonresidents)
3	1	Sept. 1	Oct. 31	6	Limited quota; any goat (5 residents, 1 nonresident)
Archery		Aug. 15	Aug. 31		Refer to Section 3 of this Chapter

Hunt Area	Type	Quota change from 2012
1	1	+2
3	1	+2
<b>Total</b>		<b>+4</b>

**Management Evaluation**

**Current Management Objective: 200**

**2012 Postseason Population Estimate: ~225**

**2013 Proposed Postseason Population Estimate: ~225**

**Herd Unit Issues.** Mountain goats were introduced into the Rock Creek drainage of the Beartooth Mountains of Montana, adjacent to the Wyoming border, in 1942. The first hunting season in Wyoming was in 1969. Since then mountain goats populated all available habitat in the Beartooth Mountains of Wyoming, and have colonized portions of the Absaroka Mountains as well, presumably from the Absaroka Mountains in Montana. To accommodate this expansion, Hunt Area 1 was enlarged in 1996 (to include the Sunlight Creek drainage) and again in 2009 (to include the area south to the North Fork of the Shoshone River). In 2011, Hunt Area 3 was carved out of Hunt Area 1 to direct hunting pressure at goats that inhabited the more remote areas of the Absaroka Mountains. In addition, some expansion has taken place in Yellowstone National Park, where currently about 10% of the goats in this herd unit reside. Hunting of this population of goats also occurs in Montana (Hunt District 514) adjacent to the Wyoming portion of the Beartooth Mountains. Both of these factors (Montana harvest and goats unavailable for harvest in YNP) must be taken into account when managing this herd.

**Weather.** Weather conditions during the 2012 biological year were conducive to mountain goat reproduction and survival throughout the Beartooth and Absaroka Mountains, with below normal snow water equivalents (a reflection of winter severity), but normal to near normal precipitation to promote forage growth.

**Habitat.** No habitat monitoring data is collected in this herd unit. Presumably, mild winter conditions resulted in high survival of both kids and adults during the 2012-2013 winter. The nearest herbaceous vegetation transects are monitored on upland vegetation types in Sunlight Basin, both on the Sunlight

Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA) and on adjacent U.S. Forest Service lands. Herbaceous production during 2011 in Sunlight Basin and on Bald Ridge was generally below average the most recent 8-year average.

**Field Data.** Goat classification/trend surveys have not been conducted in this herd unit since 2009, but are planned for 2013.

**Harvest Data.** A total of 14 goats were harvested by 15 hunters in Wyoming in 2012, including 11 males and 3 females (93.3% success). One hunter in Area 1 did not hunt and one hunter in Area 3 was not successful. Two licenses were issued in Montana for Hunt Area 514 in 2012, and 1 billy was taken. Hunter effort for Wyoming goat hunters in 2012 was 5.6 days per goat harvested, which is slightly greater than the average for goat hunters in this area, as the long-term average (1970-2011) average is 4.5 days per goat taken.

The average age of all harvested goats in 2012 was 5.1 years (5.1 years for billies and 5.2 years for nannies), which is higher than the long-term average of 4.5 years since age records were first kept in 1998. The total number of goats seen by hunters in 2012 (avg – 21.4) was less than the most recent 10-year average of 33.1 goats seen.

Various studies have shown that goat populations are sensitive to female harvest. The 3 nannies killed in 2008 represented 55% of the total Wyoming harvest for Hunt Area 1, which is considered high. In 2009 and 2010, nannies comprised 38.5% and 45.5% of the harvest, respectively. Three of the six highest nannie harvest percentages recorded for this herd unit have been recorded in the last 5 years (2008, 2009, 2010). In 2011 and 2012, the percentage of nannies in the Area 1 harvest was 36.4% and 27.3%, respectively.

**Population.** Due to the difficulty of distinguishing males and females during aerial surveys, mountain goats are classified as either kids or non-kids. Only from close observation can males and yearlings be determined. Therefore, preseason classification information for this herd unit (although graphed as juveniles:100 females) is actually kids:100 non-kids. Due to the inability to distinguish between males and females, construction and validation of a functional population model is difficult.

**Management Summary.** Based on an evaluation of recent trend counts and productivity estimates, the Beartooth Mountain Goat Herd is currently estimated to be near or slightly above the postseason population objective of 200 goats. An additional 2 licenses will be issued in Area 1 and 2 licenses in Area 3 for the 2013 season.

